



# NEWS RELEASE

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## HUDGENS: TOOMBS COUNTY FIRE NOW MURDER

**Atlanta** – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said a Toombs County man critically burned last week from an intentionally set fire to his manufactured home has died. The case is now being investigated as a murder/arson.

The fire, which occurred on the morning of July 4 around 8:22 a.m., at 198 Dorsey Jordan Road in Lyons, Ga., destroyed the structure. The owner of the home, Shannon T. Sharpe, 44, incurred third-degree burns over 90 percent of his body and was being treated at Doctors Hospital in Augusta. Sharpe died this morning from those injuries.

Commissioner Hudgens is asking anyone with information about this fire to call the Arson Hotline at **1-800-282-5804**. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Calls are taken 24 hours a day; callers can choose to remain anonymous. The Commissioner's Office and the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., sponsor the Georgia Arson Control Reward Program and the hotline.

The murder/arson is being investigated by the State Fire Marshal's Investigative Unit and the Toombs County Sheriff's Department.

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